National Organization – 1917

An Address To The American People

Louisville News

By National Equal Rights League At Tenth Annual Meeting, New York City, September 20, 1917.

The National Equal Rights League in convention assembled at Mother A. M. E. Zion Church, New York City, issues the following address to the American People:

Born on American soil, our ancestors here for centuries, we like the rest of you are Americans, and speak as true Americans. Having watered the American soil with our tears, enriched it with our blood, defended it in every war, never disloyal or untrue to its best interests, manifesting now common interest with all true Americans in its welfare, honor and glory, we, in our hour of extremity, appeal to your conscience, sense of justice and fair play, and demand that the many outrages and indignities cease and our race be accorded the same rights and privileges accorded all other Americans.

Jim-Crow Gallery in U. S. Senate.

Despite progress we are still surrounded by an adverse sentiment which makes our lives a living hell. We are shut out by trades-unions, and refused work. We are rejected in business, in professional service and even by the government as clerks solely because of color. The Senate of the United States has gone so far as to have a Jim-Crow corner in its gallery. Neither the Churches of Christ nor the Courts of Law have overcome the color line. In our Southland it has long been the custom, when a Colored man is accused of crime to set aside the usual process of law and turn him over to the mob to be stabbed, hung, shot or burned at the stake; outrages that would not be permitted in any other country on the globe.

Make Democracy Safe for the World.

The most discouraging feature is that the white pulpit is usually silent and the white press silent, if not siding with the mob.

These inhuman outrages have been winked at by those in authority until they are no longer confined to the South, but are spreading through the entire country and are casting a blot upon American civilization that cannot be effaced.

At a time like this when our country is in war to uphold democracy and to prove that our Government is the best on earth and as President Wilson said, we should "Establish in this country justice with heart in it and sympathy in it," it behooves the American people to make these outrages against humanity impossible. Not only should the "World be made safe for democracy," but "Democracy should be made safe for the world."

East St. Louis Riot Worst in Civilized World.

We denounce the East St. Louis horror as the most awful outrage that ever happened in the civilized world. We call upon the sentiment of the country to help us. We demand that the Federal Department of Justice investigate this outrage and prosecute the guilty parties to the full extent of the law.

* * *

Part II.—The War—President Wilson and the Kaiser.

The National Equal Rights League congratulates the nation upon the fact that the basic principles of the Government, human equality and human freedom, have been applied with increasing comprehensiveness to those races which make up seven-eighths of our population; and it declares that the increasing withdrawal of these principles from the other eighth of the population is a challenge of the patriotism of our Governmental administrators and of our fellow white Americans.

Demands Made Upon President Wilson.

The legalized killing which is called war always requires justification. When national self-preservation is not pleaded, only moral principles and equity can be. The entrance, therefore, of the U. S. A. offensively into the most terrible war in history and one in the other hemisphere, can be justified only by vouchsafing freedom and equality of rights to all citizens of the United States regardless of the incidents of race or color over which they have no control. Likewise all true patriots should lay aside hatred and discrimination against fellow Americans.

Now comes the President of the United States and declares officially to the world that this government takes part in the European war to promote World Democracy and World Humanity. He tells the new army raised specifically to make the world "Safe for Democracy" that this war "draws us all closer together in human brotherhood as did the Revolutionary War for American Independence. Hence, in view of his own words and of this war we do now call upon President Wilson to abolish that essential violation of democracy, race segregation of government clerks, and to recommend to Congress the enactment of laws: (a) To enforce the 14th and 15th Amendments of the Constitution which forbid peonage and disfranchisement, thereby restoring to millions of Americans their civil and political rights; (b) To make lynching a Federal crime; (c) To forbid segregation for race in interstate travel, or travel in Federal territory.

Opportunity for President and Kaiser.

9/27/17

In this world war, Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany and President Wilson of the U. S. A. have a similar opportunity and responsibility—the former to grant democracy to all the people of his realm and thereby pave the way for peace by negotiation, the latter to grant democracy to fifteen million loyal citizens denied it in the Republic over which he presides, and thereby gain added strengt hto secure peace by success in arms.

Segregation in Army Not Democracy

Colored Americans demand only that the "rights of free peoples and the common rights of mankind" which this government proclaims for Europe be also in the possession at home of all our citizens subject to risk or suffer disease and death in carrying this cause to these foreign nations. We believe in democracy. We hold that this nation should enter the lists with clean hands, and that in this formation of a new army, in the absence of any law compelling race distinction, the exclusion of Colored Americans from Officer Training Schools, from camps and cantonments with the rest, is a betrayal of the cause of democracy, and is causing fresh contempt and persecution. We demand equality of rights for all in all departments of the government.

No Success Without Justice.

All patriotic Americans must be alarmed that with the country at war, American citizens are burned by mobs, are massacred because they work for a living, are beaten and assaulted. All should unite against the tyranny of mobs and of labor organizations. Until the right of trial for crime is secure, until the right of travel, to work and to vote is free to all citizens alike, our country can not expect or deserve success in this war, or the favor and blessing of Almighty God.

Dr. Wm. A. Sinclair, Pa.
Judge E. M. Hewlett, N. J.
E. T. Morris, Mass.
M. T. Jones, Ark.
Rev. A. C. Powell, N. Y.
Rev. D. S. Klugh, Conn.
Rev. S. M. Weller, Mass.
Mrs. I. B. W. Barnett, Ill.
Rev. Jos. Summers, N. J.
Mrs. M. C. Simpson, Mass.
Wm. Monroe Trotter, Mass.
J. S. Ford, Mich.

THE NATIONAL RACE CONGRESS

The Boo 10-13-17

A Strong Defense of the Colored Americans.

The Second Annual Session a Success—Rev. W. H. Jernagin Makes a Strong Plea for Race Proctection and Sounds the Keynote—The New Constitution That Was Written and Prepared by Editor W. Calvin Chase Was Adopted With the Exception of Five Amendments—Officers Elected.

The second session of the National Race Congress was held in the Florida Avenue Baptist Church, October 3rd and 4th. It was one of the most representative meetings ever held in this city. At 10 o'clock Wdnesday morning the president, Dr. W. H. Jernagin, called the meeting to order, and Rev. C. J. Callis and Rev. W. D. Jarvis conducted devotional exercises.

Rev. W. A. Taylor delivered the welcome address. The response was made by Rev. E. A. P. Cheek, of Newark, N. J.

The afternoon session was opened with devotional exercises conducted by Revs. Walter H. Brooks and W. C. Brown. Addresses were delivered by R. L. Vann of the Courier-Journal Pittsburgh, Pa.; Rev. W. B. Reed addressed the Conference on "Southern Democracy." Reading and adoption of the Constitution that was written and prepared by Editor W. Calvin Chase.

The evening session was devoted to addresses by Rev. A. C. Garner, Rev. W. J. Howard, Rev. J. A. Whittier, of Philadelphia, Pa.: Rev. J. R. Bennett, of Chester, Pa.

The second day's session opened with devotional exercises by Revs. James L. Pinn and Rev. M. W. Clair, with an address by Rev. W. W. Russell, of Topeka, Kans. This closed one of the most successful race conferences ever held in this city. The following officers were elected:

Officers of National Race Congress.

Prsident, Rev. W. H. Jernagin, of Washington, D. C.; vice-president, Bishop I. N. Ross of A. M. E. Church, Washington, D. C.; recording secretary, Rev. William Alexander, Baltimore, Md.; corresponding and financial secretary, Rev. A. A. Graham, of Hampton, Va.; treasurer, Rev. W. A. Taylor, Washington, D. C.; national chaplain, Rev. E. A. P. Cheek, Newark, N J.; national organizer, Lawyer Robert L. Vann, Pittsburgh, Pa.; sergeant-at-arms, Rev. J. J. Nickerson, Hinton, W. Va.. national lecturer, Rev. L. G. Jordan, Philadelphia, Pa.

Rev. Jernagin's Address.

Rev. W. H. Jernagin, president of the Race Congress and who was unanimously re-elected, delivered the following address, which was adopted by the Conference as its sentiments to the country:

My Dear Brethren and Fellow Citizens:

As president of this august assembly, I come before you today, first, to congratulate you on your presence here and the interest you have taken in the uplift of our people, who today are struggling for racial existence in the midst of a prejudiced and oppressive nation.

Race Prejudice.

Racial prejudice in former years so far as we could see was confined almost to the South, where the majority of our brethren then lived. But today the prejudice of the superior race can be plainly seen and felt from the duck ponds of Maine to the Everglades of Florida, where the mocking-birds sing and magnolias bloom the year round, and from the Palmetto plots of Georgia to the western slope of the Rocky Mountains wherever the Negro places his foot on American soil, there race prejudice stares him in the face, and like Johnson's ghost, it won't down.

We are called upon today to look

this condition square in the face and prepare to solve the problem how best to ameliorate this condition without causing a serious rupture. Gentlemen, the task is ours.

Oppression.

You may go back and back and back in history to the days of the Jewish captivity, and it is only there that you can find recorded upon the pages of ancient history such a yoke of oppression as is now being put upon our people in America. We are having to make our brick today without straw.

Back in the seventies we had only political oppression to contend with; but today it is met in every walk of life. In politics, in labor organizations, as well as in social affairs, we are pressed and oppressed.

Our coming together today is not meant for the worse, but for the better. We as leaders of our race are to lead along the lines of least resistance that which will bring about the happiest results both to the oppressor and the oppressed.

A National Race Leader.

Like the ship at sea without a rudder, we are here today faced by these great national race problems, without a national race leader. This is a sad state of affairs, but yet it is true. There is no man in our race today who, like Saul in Israel, stands head and shoulders above the masses, likely in his appearance, and acceptable to all to lead us out of this unpleasant dilemma. I feel that we need a Moses, a man of the hour, well prepared, amply equipped and acceptable to the people for a leader.

We are here to find the man, and if we have him not yet made, let us make one. "The voice of the people is the voice of God." When we start to make a leader, let us make a good one.

It will take a prepared man to lead and a prepared people to follow their leader, if we ever reach the Promise Land.

We do not need a warrior. The Kaizer has given us too much of that. We need a leader who knows how to put down war. We need a man of God, who can lead us gently along the side of still waters and bring us out on the heavenly side—the side of right and righteousness, peace and plenty. "Peace on earth and good-will toward all men."

Art thou the man? Then come forward, take the oath of office, take up your task and proceed to perform your duty in the fear of God, looking to the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of all men.

I have spoken briefly of leadership, let us now glance at organization.

Organization.

Race organization and agitation are levers that move the world, if you can only find a fulcrum (leader).

We have many organizations in our race. Such as fraternal organizations. It appears that all of them have been commercialized. They have for their object visit the sick and bury the dead. And in many of them provided the grand officers, the doctor and the undertaker can make some money out of the organization. If you cannot make some money, then the thing must go into the hands of the receiver, and finally it is consigned to its last resting place. Earth to earth, dust to dust, and ashes to ashes. This is not all that we want. This is not all we need, nor what we must have.

What We Want.

We want to organize the Negro race upon a gigantic plan. Organize from the grass roots up to the leader you have just made. Organize so perfectly and thoroughly that when the leader speaks and gives command to move or act. the word will be passed on to his lieutenants and on down the line until every man, woman and child will get the order and all move as one man, whether this move be in politics, social or fraternal affairs.

How to get this organization and who shall take the initiative, gentlemen, is up to you. We are here to find or make it.

If we cannot agree upon any one man in the race as leader, let us agree upon one national organization, in which all our racial leaders can meet annually and exchange views in our course of procedure in matters pertaining to the race. Hence, we have been called together today to discuss race unity and race solidarity. If we unite, we can stand. We will be able to accomplish much for God and the race.

We cannot get the recognition of this country singly. We must unite, and when we speak it must be understood that we are speaking for the twelve millions of Negroes in the United States, and if they are behind us then we will be heard.

Our race must be taught to have more confidence in leadership. They must honor and respect the men who have prepared themselves, and in the spirit of Christ are leading them.

We have various organizations in the different sections of this country for racal uplift, but the leaders in all these organizations should come together once every year or every two years to exchange ideas and agree upon a program to be followed in all of the local organizations and be able to present a solid front in our contentions for the rights of our people.

Agitation.

The needs of the race must be agitated, and effectually so. We need agitation in the legislative halls in every State in this Union, as well as in the floor of the Nation's Congress. There is nothing to these cornerstone corner glabs—these flowery speeches on every occasion, when there is a good assembly, so that they can show off how much Latin they have learned. Nothing to these "hot-air" talks with nothing behind it. We need effectual agitation of these vital issues, when the rights of the masses are abridged and the salvation of the race is at stake. Agitate! Agitate!

Hence, in coming together today, it is not for the purpose of stirring up race hatred and race antagonism, but as near as possible to bring the races close together in an effort to make the country better and take our places as men.

For long since the Negro race has passed the period of babyhood, and it must stand as a man, taking a man's place. There is no excuse offered to him because his parents were slaves. The world is not asking about his parentage, but each individual must be able to answer the question, "Who are you and what can you do?" Are you prepared to take your place among men? If not, you must stand aside.

We are here today to exchange ideas as thinkers, and out of our many views we must try to reach the best method of racial adjustment.

War.

Since our last session our country has declared war against Germany, and the men of our race have been called upon to shoulder arms for world-wide democracy. There is no race in the world who is more ready for such a world-wide freedom than is the Negro.

I have been delighted to see the readiness of our young men from the best schools of the country to enlist for training camps and other services in the war.

It is true that there have been many discouraging features that have presented themselves in connection with the colored soldiers, but we cannot stop to remedy them now. We must help our country win this war, and stand ready to cooperate with the President in this crucial period.

Food Administration.

Mr. Herbert C. Hoover, Commissioner of the Food Administration, is calling upon every citizen of the United States to cooperate with him in the conservation of food. Our race is the greatest food producers in this country.

Let us do our duty in the conservation of the same, and cooperate in every way possible with the food administration.

In general, I desire to urge upon the members of my race to play their part well on every program that is arranged to make America a fit place in which to live and the world better. The enemies of the race would like for us to act indifferent in matters of this kind.

The Public Press.

I want to commend the leading papers of this country, both white and colored, for the way they condemned the slaughtering of our people at East St. Louis and spoke out in no uncertain tone against mob violence.

I desire to appeal to the white press of this country to come to the rescue of a defenseless race more in the future than it has in the past, by speaking more about their virtues. We have had enough of the vice of the race published in the absence of all the good that we have accomplished. We must find some way to get a more favorable account of our race through the public press and thereby change public sentiment concerning our people. The white press is making millions of dollars off our people, and they should be willing to portray the excellent deeds among the better class of our people as well as the vice among the bad.

Our racial papers and enterprises must be supported first and last and always by the members of the race, because they are our only medium of getting a rightful hearing before the public mind.

The silent parade given by the colored citizens of New York City protesting against the East St. Louis riot, must be commended. It made a great impression and it was far-reaching. Also the eight special city wide prayer meetings held in this city by a unit of women led by that matchless leader among women, Miss N. H. Burroughs, must be commended to the highest, because in all of our protests and agitations for right treatment God must not be left out, because He "has no respect of person."

These meetings have made a wonderful impression in this city, as well as elsewhere. Some of the members of Congress have been greatly affected by these prayers and petitions sent in by our people.

Hence, let us take courage and go forward. In closing my address, I desire to call the attention of every representative here that he owes it to himself and the people he represents to put forth his best thoughts in making the Congress a success, and start here a propaganda that will mean the second emancipation of our people.

This will take time, talent and money. Now, if we are in earnest about our manhood rights we must pay the price.

Yours for the race,

W. H. Jernagin.

REV. DR. W. H. JERNAGIN.

National Organization—1917

Address Of Federation Of Negro Organizations To The Nation

FIRST—We are loyal to but on flag—The Stars and Stripes, and from it we expect every right and privilege it gives to any of its loyal citizens.

SECOND—We believe in a democracy that is free from caste and is not maintained by racial discrimination and inequality before the law. America does not consider the Colored citizen a part of its democracy nor has it attempted to give him his constitutional rights. This attitude is undemocratic and hypocritical, and as such we most scathingly denounce.

THIRD—Sectionalism is America's greatest weakness and it will never be a safe and stable nation until this is blotted out.

FOURTH—Lynching, burning and massacre are practices of savages and not civilized human beings. These things can be stopped by making them a crime against the Federal Government, and as such, to be punished by Federal authorities. The Franchise restored to the Colored citizens where lynching flourishes, will put a mighty check upon it. A rigid enforcement of law in every State without dis crimination will check it and create a different atmosphere.

FIFTH—America as a nation is responsible for the destructnon of the franchise of Colored people; and political parties have purposely permitted it to continue, so that now we are not a democracy, but a nation governed by mobs. The franchise is both the defensive and offensive weapon of an American citizen, and robbed of it, he becomes a slave with less protection than an Alien.

SIXTH—We are opposed to the proposed League of Nations because it is secretly drawn, purposely exclusive of racial equality and is a subtile attempt to have it universally understood that the darker races are inferior and the world must be governed by those who have already wrecked civilization. War is savage and brutal but is preferable to a Peace that is not based upon righteousness and which must be enforced by a League of Nations that does not represent half of the peoples of the world. But we do approve of a League of Americans to enforce real and not hypocritical democracy, at home.

SEVENTH—Colored soldiers are the peers of any soldiers of the world. The treatment accorded them in this last war, both in America and in France was both despicable and unjust. It belied our hypocritical cantings about democracy alike for everybody. We ask a rigid investigation and speedy punishment of those who are guilty of discrimination in the army and navy. Democracy demands that Colored soldiers be eligible and also appointed to any rank in the American Army that any other soldier may aspire to. The keeping of Colored men out of the Naval and War Academies is a wilful violation of the fundamental principles of democracy, and if the American Colored soldier and sailor are worthy to die for the safety of this nation, nothing this nation has is too god for them and they must have it.

EIGHTH—We believe in Woman Suffrage and insist that when it is given, every American woman be on the same basis, and any attempt to discriminate will meet our united protest and uncompromising fight.

NINTH—Labor Unions are good and Colored people should be given admittance upon the same basis as all other laborers, and should be given the opportunity to participate in all trades and professions, receiving the same compensation as other laborers.

TENTH—We believe in sane leadership and will follow it but we reserve the right to say who shall be our leaders, and refuse to follow the hand-picked leadership of others. Whoever leads us must insist upon absolute equality before the law for all races, equality of opportunity for all people, and fight any thing that savors of discrimination on account of race or color.

ELEVENTH—We believe in industries and industrial training for our race, but we are opposed to any caste education for any American children, as all should have the right to enjoy the fullest development of their mental powers.

TWELFTH—We believe it is the duty of every American citizen to be just and square toward every other American citizen, and when any are found that do not live up to this rule in government, they should be forced to do so by a righteous democratic people.

Committee:

WILLIAM A. BYRD, Chairman,
M. C. LAWTON,
CHARLES P. JONES,
BYRON GUNNER,
FLORENCE RANDOLPH,
C. M. VAN BUREN,
S. R. CORROTHERS,
BISHOP C. HURD.

GET TOGETHER, NEGROES' AIM

EVE SUN
TEMBER 22, 1917

Convention Propounds New American Problem.

TO WORK FOR THEIR RIGHTS

Want End of Discrimination of the South.

A convention of a sort to intrigue the discerning and the wary met this week in Harlem, transacted its business in an orderly way and disbanded with a programme of work for the year. The significance of the convention cannot be overlooked, for when the representatives of 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 people are met together to declare that they have been deprived of the rights granted them under the Constitution; when expressions exalting the love of race are wildly cheered; when pledges of self-sacrifice for the love of race draw tears—it may well be conceded that here is a problem for commanding statesmanship.

The convention was that of the National Equal Rights League. It met in the Mother Zion Church, 153 West 136th street, and half the States of the Union were represented. The sessions were solemn and only from the point of view of prejudice and of those who would overlook rather than deal with a question. were they sinister. Claims of new dignity for the American negro were made. It was asserted that it is below the dignity of any negro politician to ask any political party to "help out." Arrangements were made for a political organization that will keep close watch on legislative discrimination. The Rev. J. Milton Waldron of the Washington, D. C., Baptist Church predicted that a fund of $5,000,000 could be raised for this purpose. The formal voice of the convention said: "We are going to get together. This is an American problem of the first importance. What will the rest of the country do about it?"

Byron Gunner of Hillburn, N. Y., is president of the league. In the call to American negroes for this convention dedicated to a "speedy getting together" Gunner spoke against pacifism among negroes and declared that the convention was no place for them to appear. In conversation he explained thus:

Want a Fair Deal.

"The race crisis is being brought on by the progress of the colored people. We are less submissive than our fathers. We feel that the States and Federal Government must see that we get a fair deal in court. We are not trying to protect any negro criminal, but we insist on a fair trial. We want lynch law abolished, as well as all kinds of Jim Crowism in trains and hotels. We want the right to vote provided under the Constitution.

"Now any negro who says this is not the proper time for the negro to speak in his own behalf is a pacifist. The negro who apologizes for what happened in East St. Louis, Ill., who says let the whites run the Government in the South and don't agitate, is a race pacifist. With all respect to his great memory, I may explain that we regarded Booker T. Washington as a pacifist, because he knew that no negro contending for what we want would be tolerated in the South. He knew that the South would break up Tuskegee if he attended a convention to assert claims for the ballot and equal rights."

The organizers of the convention call attention to its timeliness, because of the recent outbursts of violence "caused by race prejudice," and particularly the East St. Louis affair. There was not so much hortatory scintillation in the sessions as one might have expected. Parliamentary practice was strictly observed. The soft pedal was put on blatancy, and there were many men of sense and substance on hand to agree with the Rev. Edward Ghelson, 737 West avenue, Ocean City, who said:

"We've been too long operating the jaw. Let's use our brains a while."

Many observers, literary, political and sociological, have recently made note of a new temper, better organization and coherent purpose among the children of Africa and the Emancipation Proclamation. What they have observed may be found exemplified in extracts from some of the remarks at the convention and the signs that decorated the walls of Mother Zion Church.

Have the Money Now.

After referring to the need of funds to support a legislative committee in Washington to work against discriminatory legislation the Rev. J. Milton Waldron said:

"Our people have got money. All we have to do is to go on and wake them up to what needs to be done. God has somewhere in this country a young man, race loving and energetic, with the powers of locomotion, who will go to the churches and the secret societies and ask for $1 apiece to support such a legislative committee in Washington. I've been sounding my people for years and I find among those whom you might call the plain folks, though I prefer to call them the masses, a new, great spirit of patriotism and longing for the advancement of the race. If patriotism and race love are dead among the classes it is not dead among the masses.

"If the collections are handled responsibly, with reports every month on what has been done and how much collected, I say you'll get not $1,000,000 but $5,000,000 from our people. I'm tired of going to the Republican party and asking them to help out. Let us go as the Jews do to the Democrats and say we want representation. They have a representative on the Supreme Court bench, the Ambassador to Turkey, many consuls and other officers, and I'm glad of it."

An interesting remark made by a negro woman in Washington to one of

the pickets was echoed in this convention. The negress said to one of the pickets, "You tells me that you is determined to have the vote and to have it now and to picket until you get it? Well, den, all I's got to say is dat when woman is determined dey is de most conqueroring creature dey is." After Waldron's remarks Miss Cravat Simpson, a Southern delegate, said with fiery enthusiasm:

Women Volunteer.

"If you can't find men to do this work you can entrust it to women. Judging from the way you men run this convention, having nothing solid before it for almost a whole day, you need help. If you can't find the men you want you can find women who'll sacrifice. We are ready to devote our lives to the race, and all we ask in return is just enough to eat and such necessities."

Among the slogans on the convention walls were these:

We are maligned as lazy and murdered when we work.

We are excluded from the unions and condemned for not joining them.

Three thousand negroes fought for American independence under George Washington.

We have 20,000 slaughter and packing house operators.

Alabama needs 75,000 ballots to elect ten Congressmen; Minnesota needs 3,000,000! How do they do it!

Interpret for us in living, loving acts the religion of Jesus Christ.

Each white man in the South by disfranchising the black workingman casts from 8 to 13 times as many ballots as you.

Pray for the Lady Macbeths of East St. Louis.

Twelve thousand of us fought with Jackson at New Orleans.

The New Freedom by Woodrow Wilson.

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T. R. Button to Stay.

It was out at the door when discussion was general that a member of the convention pointed to a button in his lapel. It said, "T. R." "That button I'm going to wear," he remarked, "until 1920, if I live. I've nominated him, and if he isn't elected in 1920 I'll wear this button until he goes back to the White House."

"I don't agree with you," said another member of the convention, "Col. Roosevelt is too hot headed."

"I'm talking as a politician," said the first man, "and I tell you Roosevelt has made history and he's done some things for us."

"Why don't you talk like a statesman instead of a politician," asked an outsider.

"Well, maybe I can claim to do that," said the first man, "I'm known by some as the Hon. Isaac B. Allen formerly member of the Governor's Council of Massachusetts. Ordinarily I don't claim to be but a poltician. But all the time I'm against the segregation which has been encouraged by this Administration."

The Negro Academy, which has become a great organization for keeping before the people high ideals of life and facts of what our men and women have done in the high work of their times, held a very successful annual meeting at the Y. M. C. A. Building, December 26 and 27, the session being devoted almost entirely to a retrospect of the life and work of Frederick Douglass, the centenary of whose birth occurs about this time. The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Archibald H. Grimke; first vice-president, Prof. Kelly Miller; second vice-president, the Rev. Matthew Anderson; third vice-president, the Rev. L. V. Johnson, fourth vice-president, Bishop J. Albert Johnson; recording secretary, Arthur U. Craig; corresponding secretary, J. W. Cromwell, and treasurer, the Rev. F. J. Grimke.

Prof. Kelly Miller, J. E. Moreland, J. W. Cromwell, L. M. Hershaw, F. H. M. Murray and F. J. Grimke were elected members of the auditing committee.

Among those who spoke on various phases of the life and activities of Mr. Douglass were Prof. Kelly Miller, Judge Robert H. Terrell, Mr. Grimke, John E. Bruce and Arthur Schomberg.

Henry P. Slaughter, editor of the *Odd Fellows' Journal*, entertained the following members of the Negro Academy, after its adjournment Wednesday night: A. H. Grimke, John W. Cromwell, Robert Pelham, Daniel Murray, Arthur Schomberg and John E. Bruce. The visitors inspected the collection of Raceanna, possessed by Mr. Slaughter—the collection of first editions and autograph copies of works by writers of the race being one of the largest, finest and most complete in existence. Mr. Slaughter secured the collection of the late William Carl Bollivar of Philadelphia. I shall have more to say of Mr. Slaughter's collection in a separate article later on.

One of the surprises of the holiday season has been the epidemic of marriages among the teaching body of the public schools of Washington. It is said that ten lady teachers in one division took husbands "for better or for worse." The explanation of the epidemic is to be found in the recent rule that teachers do not forfeit their positions when they marry, the old rule being that they did. It is said that some of the engagements had been standing so long that they were very weak from old age. There is much dissatisfaction, however, among the people who have daughters coming out of the schools every year who desire to teach in the District schools, because the new rule will make it harder for them to get the work they desire. Very few of these young graduates desire to go into the rural districts of the South to teach, because they prefer to remain at home, and because of the poor pay and the isolation of the rural districts. What to do with our young folks, and what they are to do with and for themselves when they leave the schools and face the world becomes more and more a problem which our business men are solving but slowly, as they do not grow in employing power with the demand of wage-earners for work.

RELIGIOUS BUSINESS INSTITUTE RACE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (U. S. A.)

The national Baptist Union Re

Motto: Religion Education and Business will solve the Race Problem. In Ra-ma was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and would not be comforted because they are not. Matt. 2:18.

I. Women's Christian Work.
II. Mother's Auditorium.
III. Summer Resort.
IV. The Slogan Reads.

or Summer Resorts. I know of no pavilions for summer resorts in the South for haven for the fallen unfortunate girl-mother and a real home for both mother and child which will rapidly decrease and discourage parental mother slaughter of infants. Why should any one seek my life or plan to destroy it, injure or defeat such a worthy cause for the reformation of mother's daughter? Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest Luke 10: 2.

III. SUMMER RESORTS.

Every summer the railroad systems put on excursion rates to the Gulf of Mexico for Negroes any where along the Gulf Coast.

This enterprise would be encouraged by the railroad officials. Port Lavaca, Texas, and Texas City, Texas, would be excellent places for the organization to select.

IV. THE SLOGAN READS.

3,840,000 souls to be converted and added to the church. 3,840,00 boys and girls in the public schools today and in ten years this gigantic multitude will come home to father and mother looking for religious business.

Do the Negroes ever hope to live here or any where else 1000 years eating honey and drinking wine ever expect to see our sons and daughters' behind the white man's counter in business? The white man is right. The Negro is dormant to religious business system.

Yours very truly, Rev Lewis S. Todd,
Gen. Del. Houston. Texas.

GRIMKE HOLDS PLACE AS NEGRO ACADEMY HEAD

[illegible] DECEMBER 28, 1917

Organization Re-Elects President at Convention, While Speakers Discuss Migration Movement.

Archibald H. Grimke was re-elected president of the American Negro Academy at last night's session of the twenty-first annual meeting of the organization, which convened yesterday morning at the Twelfth Street Branch of the Y. M. C. A.

Other officers chosen are Kelly Miller, Bishop J. Albert Johnson, Matthew Anderson and L. V. Johnson, vice presidents; Rev. F. J. Grimke, treasurer; Arthur U. Craig, recording secretary; John W. Cromwell, corresponding secretary. The executive committee is composed of Kelly Miller, Jesse E. Moorland, F. J. Grimke, A. U. Craig, F. H. M. Murray, L. M. Hershaw and J. W. Cromwell.

Discuss Migration Movement.

Papers were read by Lafayette M. Hershaw, on "The Migration Movement Since the Civil War," and Matthew Anderson, on "Some Phases of the Migration Movement in Philadelphia."

Request to abolish by executive order all distinction based on race or color in the passenger service of the railroads of the country was contained in a telegram sent to the President of the United States yesterday by the academy.

To Explain Results.

This afternoon's session was called to order at 2 o'clock. The program included papers by Kelly Miller, on "Statistical Study of the Northern Movement of the Negro From 1860 to 1910," and J. W. Cromwell, on "The Movement Before Appamattox."

The concluding session will be held this evening at 7:30 o'clock. The principal speaker will be Rev. Robert W Bagnall, on "Some Results of the Migration Movement in the Middle West."

RACE CONGRESS ELECTS ITS NEW OFFICERS

(Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.)

Washington, D. C.—There has been an amalgamation of forces in the National Race Congress, with the following officers:

The Rev. W. H. Jernagin, Washington, D. C., president; Bishop I. N. Ross, Washington, D. C., vice-president; the Rev. William C. Alexander, Baltimore, recording secretary; the Rev. A. A. Graham, Hampton, Va., corresponding and financial secretary; the Rev. W. A. Taylor, Washington, treasurer; the Rev. E. A. P. Cheek, Newark, N. J., national chaplain; Robert L. Vann, Pittsburgh, national organizer; the Rev. J. J. Nickerson, Hinton, W. Va., sergeant-at-arms; the Rev. L. G. Jordan, Philadelphia, national lecturer.

National Organization – 1917

NEWS OF THE NATION'S METROPOLIS

Race Congress and National Equal Rights League Adopt Measures to Secure Rights for the Negro

DELEGATES PRESENT FROM EVERY SECTION

Plans to Raise $100,000, and will Keep Lobbyist at Washington—Wants Negro Troops to go to France as Separate Unit—Madam C. J. Walker Takes Active Part in the Deliberations—The Congress was in Session Three Days—Many Prominent Men and Women Sat as Delegates.

Freeman 9/29/17

Allen's National News Bureau,
447 Lenox Avenue.

NEW YORK CITY, Sept. 24—The National Equal Rights League and Race Congress, which held a three days' session in this city last week, brought together some of the most courageous men and women of the race, from every section of the country. Delegates came from the extreme South, and as far west as California, and all of them had just one message, the securing of equal rights for the Negro in this country. They were the men and women of the race who feel keenly the outrages that this nation is still heaping upon them, and with East St. Louis still fresh in the memories, their messages to the nation were burning. The sessions were held at the Mother Zion A. M. E. church, of which the Rev. J. W. Brown is the pastor. The league and race congress adopted strong measures asking for the security of the Negro's rights among them one calling upon the Negro to raise $1,000,000 to assist in fighting his own battles, and the defraying of the expenses of a representative who will be kept at Washington the year round to look out for measures that will reflect upon the rights of the Negro. The Congress wanted better treatment for the Negro soldiers, and recommended that the Negro troops be allowed to go to France as a separate unit. The committee of Negro Labor and Migration demanded an inquiry into the economic status of the race, and the league and congress also appointed a committee to urge all Negroes of foreign births to become citizens. The league was called to order by President Byron Gunner, who called upon the Rev. G. H. Van Buren, of Poughkeepsie, to give the invocation. The annual call of the president calling upon the race to meet in congress was read by the secretary, and then the league proceeded to organize. The Race Congress which is part of the program of the league then went into session. Rev. M. L. Sydes, of Providence, presided. At the afternoon session on Tuesday brief addresses were made by Dr. Shaw, of Boston. Mrs. M. C. Simpson, of Boston; John E. Bruce, of New York; Rev. J. M. Cornell, of Bethleham, Pa; Rev. I. B. Walters, of Worcester, and the Rev. Bolden.

Rev. Sydee told of the plans to bring about an pilgrimage to Washington, which was adopted as one of the things that the league and congress will center on during the year. Welcome addresses were made at the evening session by Rev. Brown, Hon. Isaac B. Allen, Mrs. Anna Ross Weeks, the noted suffrage worker, who urged colored men to vote for suffrage, and the Rev. J. M. Waldron, of Washington.

The session opened on Wednesday, with an added increase in attendance. The morning session was given over to an executive meeting and helpful things were discussed looking to the furtherance of the work of the league. At the afternoon session brief addresses were made by the delegates on how to work in the various communities in the most effective manner. Among the things that came up for attention was the race congress that will be held in Washington the first week in December. W. T. R. Richardson of this city brought to the attention of the congress the duty of urging Negroes of foreign births to become citizens and strengthen our cause.

Among the delegates who spoke were Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett, of Chicago; W. H. Scott, Rev. D. T. Klugh, of New Haven, Conn., and Hon. I. B. Allen. At the evening session stirring addresses were made by Mrs C. J. Walker, formerly of Indianapolis, who made an appeal to the women to join with the men in fighting for our battles. She told of her struggles in accomplishing her life's work and said that ought to give an incentive to other women of the race. Judge E. M. Hewlett, of Washington, made an impassioned appeal and said that no other race would stand for the treatment that we submit to in this country. Principal Jacob Theobald, of P. S 89, made an interesting address in which he said that the Negro was not the only race that had to struggle for existence. Rev. J. M. Waldron, of Washington, said that the Negro ought to keep himself acquainted with the constitution and to know their rights Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett told of her investigations at East St. Louis and revealed many of the horrors as the result of the East St. Louis riots. Mrs. Barnett told of how the women of Illinois were keeping on the "firing line" and assisting on the work for democracy. At the afternoon session on Thursday the principle feature was the report of various committees. The following committees made reports: On Negro Labor and Migration, which called attention to the large number of Negroes who had left the South as the result of bad treatment and how the labor market in the North had become taxed as the result of the exodus.

The report was issued by Rev. J. W. Brown, Rev. W. T. Dixon, and W. H. Scott. The report of committee on military census was read by Prof. Allen W. Whaley, of Boston, and recommended that the colored soldiers be treated fairly, this was followed by the committee of naturalization, issued through its chairman, W. T. R. Richardson. The following officers of the National Rights League were then elected: President, Bryon Gunner, of Hillburn; first vice-president, Rev. C. S. Whitted; second vice-president, Rev. J. W. Brown; corresponding secretary, Monroe Trotter, of Boston; third vice-president, Rev. J. P. Love; treasurer, Mrs. Cravath Simpson; national organizer, Prof. Allen Whaley; assistant, Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett. At the conclusion of the election of officers, Rev. Dr. J. M. Waldron, of Washington, told of the work that has been done in Washington during the past year and said that an eagle eye is being kept on all measures that reflect upon the Negro. He told of the fight that was made for the establishment of an officers' training camp for colored soldiers, at Des Moines, and said that the United States Army had already been asked to send the Negro troops as a separate unit. Dr. Waldron said that a study is now being made of the conditions in the navy affecting colored men and that the discrimination against them is now being asked to be removed. He said that the Negro needed a lobbyist at Washington who would watch the situation there. He called attention to the discrimination in the Senate, and said that for the first time in its history a jimcrow corner has been set up in that body.

His report was warmly received at the congress. The convention closed on Thursday evening and was one of the most notable of its sessions. Rev. W. S. Holder, pastor of the Congregational church, presided. The principle feature was the annual address of President Gunner. The address struck out against lynching and unjust discrimination and told of the necessity of leagues like the National Equal Rights League to safeguard the rights of the race. Other addresses were made by William D. Brigham, of Dorchester, Mass., who was the only white delegate to the convention; Rev. M. Ricks, president of the Borough Marcus Marks; Bishop Tyree, William Monroe Trotter, Dr. Banks, and Chas. Martin, D. D. A delegation headed by the Rev. J. M. Palmer, of Philadelphia, representing the A. M. E. church, was present. The addresses were followed by the issuance of The Address to the Country. The address was arraignment of the treatment of the Negro in America, and condemned strongly the lynching, aiming particularly at East St. Louis and Memphis. The address made its plea upon the fact that the Negro was born on American soil, and that his ancestors had been here for years. It was read by Dr. William Sinclair, of Philadelphia. The committee consisted of E. T. Morris, Massachusetts; M. T. Jones, A. C. Powell, D. T. Klugh, Connecticut; S. W. Waller, Massachusetts; Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett; Joseph Summers, New Jersey; Judge E. M. Hewlett, and M. C. Simpson, Monroe Trotter, Massachusetts, and J. C. Ford, California.

Although the National Equal Rights League held its session in New York, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People failed to send a delegate from that body to bring greetings to the league. Your correspondent who covered the meeting for the daily newspapers failed to see an official from that organization. This is not intended to be a criticism, but an inquiry.

The congress brought together some of the most prominent of the Negro leaders of the nation, many of them standing high in the national life of the country, and are well known race men and women. Among the delegates that attracted much attention was William Brigham, from Boston, who is eighty years of age, and was associated with early abolitionists of Massachusetts. He was the only white delegate to the convention. He spoke at several of the sessions of the meeting. Rev. J. M. Cornell, of Bethleham, Pa., came the representative of the Civic League of that city. The league has a membership of 100 and is doing effective work. J. Frances Monroe, a young race leader, came from Newburgh, N. Y., as the delegate from the Citizens League, an organization with a membership of 900 members. He is the secretary of the organization and took an active part in the convention. He is engaged in the real estate and insurance business and is a fine type of young Negro manhood.

One of the prominent delegates was Rev. Joseph Summers, of Newark, and one of the strongest leaders of the state of New Jersey. He came as the representative of the Interdenominational Preachers' Meeting, and at one of the sessions made a thrilling address. Rev. Joseph is an able preacher and orator and is on the "firing line." He stands well in the church and at the convention was an active member. He was one of the organizers of the Negro Protest parade that will be held in Newark on October 4th. Rev. C. C. Ringgold, of Bethlehem, came as the delegate of the Preacher's Conference of Rockland county, of which he is president. He is doing good work in that city.

Monroe Trotter led the delegation from Boston and was one of the moving spirits of the league. He attracted wide attention and each time his name was mentioned it was applauded. Mrs. Cravath Simpson, of Boston, was one of the prominent women delegates who took an active part in the congress. She brought before the body several matters of vital interest to the race, which were accepted as a part of the league's work. She is prominent in the uplift of the state and is the president of the Massachusetts State Federation. Mrs. Idal Wells Barnett, of Chicago, was another one of the interested delegates. She is perhaps one of the most picturesque women of the race. Her reputation as a speaker and investigator is of national scope. Judge E. M. Hewlett, of Washington, and Ex-Congressman Murry, now of Chicago, and the last of the Negro Law Makers, were among the delegates. Dr. William Sinclair, of Philadelphia, the uncompromising race champion, was seen by your correspondent showing deep earnestness in the cause. Rev. L. G. Jordan, of Philadelphia, one of the most noted men of the race, and usually found lined up in movements making for the best interest of the race, was one of the active delegates. He brought to the congress wisdom and foresight on the grave matters now affecting our interest. Rev. J. M. Waldron, the noted leader of Washington, was an inspiring figure at the Congress. The race congress has passed into history and if the things will be carried out as recommended the organization will be among the foremost movements making for world history and democracy. The next session will be in Chicago.

CLEVELAND G. ALLEN

Ask Make Lynching Federal Crime

Tribune 9/24/17

EQUAL RIGHTS LEAGUE HOLDS ANNUAL CONVENTION

Nearly Two Hundred Delegates From Many States Attend Sessions

New York, Sept. N. Y. 22.—Vigorous protest against undemocratic treatment of colored American citizens in the land of their birth by the national government in times of peace and in military arrangements in time of war were adopted by the National Equal Rights League at its 10th annual meeting in Mother Zion church on West 136th street on Tuesday of this week.

In the report on Military Race Discrimination and in the formal address to the country separate officers training, soldier training and cantonment provision were vigorously denounced as based on race prejudice. Pres. Wilson was quoted as giving the United States mission in the European War to be that of real democracy and in turn the League demanded in precise terms that Pres. Wilson abolish segregation of government clerks and recommend to Congress enactment of laws—

(a) To enforce the 14th and 15th Amendments which forbid peonage and disfranchisement. (b) To make lynching a federal crime; (c) To forbid segregation by race in interstate travel, or in federal territory.

Nearly 200 delegates were in attendance at the League meeting and at the Race Congress called by the League for deliberative purposes Rev. M. T. Sydes, R. I., was elected president; Rev J. W. Brown, of Mother Zion and Rev. J. W. Hill, vice-presidents; Rev. E. P. Dixon of Mass., secretary; Rev. W. S. Smith of N. J., chaplain; Mr. J. C. Ford of Mich., sergeant-at-arms; Rev. J. C. Sydes, Rev. Hill, Mr. Ford, Hon. I. B. Allen of N. Y., Mrs. Ida B W. Barrett of Ill., A. B. Cosey of N. Y., and M. T. Jones of Ark. were elected and accepted by the League as delegates to the National Liberty Congress at Washington, D. C., in December.

Endorsement of a race pilgrimage to the National capitol in the Liberty Congress to lay the grievances of the race before the federal authorities in December, and the raising of a fund to provide salary for a traveling organizer who should raise the means whereby to employ a legislative agent at Congress and organize the race to fight the battle for its rights, were outstanding features of the three days' sessions. A memorial resolution was adopted for the late Rev. James E. Churchman, who died as National Organizer.

Delegates were present from as far south as North Carolina, Georgia and Arkansas, as far west as California. Large audiences attended the mass

meetings Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. Addresses were made by Mrs. Ida B. W. Barnett of D. C., M. T. Jones of Ark., William D. Brigham of Boston, only white delegate; Rev. J. W. Brown, pastor of Mother Zion; Hon. I. B. Allen, Rev. W. S. Holder and Rev. J. M. Summers of N. J., Mrs. M. C. Simpson, J. F. Monroe of N. Y., Rev. M. F. Sydes, Hon. Geo. W. Murray, Prof. Allen W. Whaley, organizer for the Liberty Congress and others. Dr. Wm. A. Sinclair read the address to the country framed by Judge Hewlett and William Monroe Trotter.

Rev. Gunner was re-elected president, J. L. Neill, record., sec'y., Wm. Monroe Trotter, cor. secy., Thomas Walker, treas. The position of National organizer was kept open. Rev. C. S. Whitted of Conn., and Mrs. C. J. Walker of N. Y., were elected vice presidents at large. C. L. Mitchell N. Y., E. M. Hewlett, Thomas Walker of D. C., were lected general counsel for the League.

The League's committee on Labor Migration declared that in the North there was a deficiency in the labor market, a real need of laborers, and hence the labor exodus from the South met an economic need of the nation. The League endorsed the migration because of its system of degrading, robbing and terrorizing the race in the South and urged that the churches and other bodies look out for conditions when employed.

The next meeting will be held in Chicago, Ill.

The following is an address to the American people, issued by the league at its meeting.

Born on American soil, our ancestors here for centuries, we like the rest of you are Americans, and speak as true Americans. Having watered the American soil with our tears, enriched it with our blood, defended it in every war, never disloyal or untrue to its best interests, manifesting now common interest with all true Americans in its welfare, honor and glory, we, in our hour of extremity, appeal to your conscience, sense of justice and fair play, and demand that the many outrages and indignities cease and our race be accorded the same rights and privileges accorded all othe Americans.

Despite progress we are still surrounded by an adverse sentiment which makes our lives a living hell. We are shut out by trades unions, and refused work. We are rejected in business, in professional service and even by the government as clerks solely because of color. The Senate of the United States has gone so far as to have a Jim Crow corner in its gallery. Neither the churches of Christ nor the courts of law have overcome the color line. In our Southland it has long been the custom, when a colored man is accused of crime to set aside the usual process of law and turn him over to the mob to be stabbed, hung, shot, or burned at the stake; outrages that would not be permitted in any other counry on the globe.

The most discouraging feature is that the white pulpit is usually silent and the white press silent, if not siding with the mob.

These unhuman outrages have been winked at by those in authority until they are no longer confined to the South, but are spreading through the entire country and are casting a blot upon American civilization that cannot be effaced.

At a time like this when our country is in war to uphold democracy and to prove that our government is the best on earth and as President Wilson said, we should, "Establish in this country justice with heart in it and sympathy in it," it behooves the American people to make these outrages against humanity impossible. Not only should the "World be safe for Democracy," but "Democracy should be made safe for the World."

We denounce the East St. Louis horror as the most awful outrage that ever happened in the civilized world. We call upon the sentiment of the country to help us. We demand that the Federal Department of Justice investigate this outrage and prosecute the guilty parties to the full extent of the law.

Part II

The National Equal Rights League congratulates the nation upon the fact that the basic principles of the government, human equality and human freedom, have been applied with increasing comprehensiveness to those races which make up seven-eights of our population; and it declares that the increasing withdrawal of these principles from the other eighth of the population is a challenge of the patriotism of our governmental administrators and of our fellow white Americans.

The leaglized killing which is called war always require justification. When national self-preservation is not pleaded, only moral principles and equity can be. The entrance, therefore, of the U. S. A. offensively into the most terrible war in history and one in the other hemispheres, can be justified only by vouchsafing freedom and equality of rights to all citizens of the United States regardless of the incidents of race or color over which they have no control. Likewise all true patriots should lay aside hatred and discrimination against fellow Americans.

Now comes the President of the United States and declares officially to the world that the government takes part in the European war to promote World Democracy and World Humanity. He tells the new army raised specifically to make the world "Safe for Democracy" that this war "draws us all closer together in human brotherhood as did the Revolutionary War for American Independence. Hence, in view of his own words and of this war, we do now call upon President Wilson to abolish that essential violation of democracy, race segregation of government clerks, and to recommend to Congress the enactment of laws; (a) To enforce the 14th and 15th Amendments of the Constitution which forbid people and disfranchisement, thereby restoring to millions of Americans their civil and political rights; (b) To make lynching a federal crime; (c) To forbid segregation for race in interstate travel, or travel in federal territory.

In this world war, Kaiser Wilhelm and Germany and President Wilson of the U. S. A. have a similar opportunity and responsibility:—the former to grant democracy to all the people of his realm and thereby pave the way for peace by negotiation, the latter to grant democracy to fifteen million loyal citizens denied it in the Republic over which he presides, and thereby gain added strength to secure peace by success in arms.

Colored Americans demand only that the "right of free peoples and the common rights of mankind" which the government proclaims for Europe be also in the possession at home of all the citizens subject to the risk or suffer disease and death in carrying this cause to these foreign nations. We believe in democracy. We hold that the nation should enter the list with clean hands and that in this formation of a new army, in the absence of any law compelling race distinction, the exclusion of colored Americans from Officers' Training Schools, from c and cantonments with the rest, betrayal of the cause of democracy and is causing fresh contempt and persecution. We demand equality of rights for all departments of the government.

All patriotic Americans must be alarmed that with the country at war, American citizens are burned at the stake by mobs, are massacred because they work for a living, are beaten and assaulted. All should unite against the tyrany of mobs and of labor organizations. Until the right of trial for crime is secure, until the right of travel, to work and to vote is free to all citizens alike, our country can not expect to deserve success in this war, or the favor and blessing of Almighty God.

Dr. Wm. A. Sinclair, Pa.
Judge E. M. Hewlett, N. J.
E. T. Morris, Mass
M. T. Jones, Ark.
Rev. A. C. Powell, N. Y.
Rev. D. S. Klugh, Conn
Rev. S. M. Weller, Mass.
Mrs. I. B. W. Barnett
Rev. Joseph Summers, N. J.
Mrs. M. C. Simpson, Mass.
William Monroe Trotter, Mass
J. S. Ford, Mich.

COLORED AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF THE FRENCH WAR ORPHANS

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 24, 1917.

The Colored American Society for the relief of the French war orphans is an organization unique in the history of the Negro of this country. It is the first concerted effort on the part of the colored people generally to take upon their shoulders a huge responsibility of international importance. The Society proposes to raise a fund of one million dollars for the relief of the widows and orphans of the brave black soldiers of France. The movement is national in its scope—the plan is to have every colored person in the country contribute a few cents to this fund. It is remarkable how much actual suffering and want that a few dollars distributed in this way will actually relieve among our brother, wives and children across the sea.

There are 600,000 colored soldiers now fighting for France, already over one hundred thousand have been killed. Think of it, an army of black men exactly seven times the size of the U. S. army. Mr. Paul Rockwell, an Atlanta white gentleman, who has seen active service under the French Tricolor, writing in the Atlanta Constitution, January 22, 1917, speaking of the Foreign Legion, states that the Legion does not draw a color line. A coal black Abyssinian is today a sergeant in command of white men and several American blacks are serving in the corps. Another soldier of the Legion is a Gold Coast Negro recently was studying in the U. S. Foreign Missionary Service. He concluded that he could serve God better as a soldier of the Legion of France than he could as a missionary. Such is the typical of the French people. Universal freedom and justice to all men is a principle indelibly engraved into every Frenchman and for which he would rather die than to relinquish. Every race the world over has contributed to this same cause among their own people most liberally and it is especially fitting that we should show the same love and sympathy for the widows and orphans of our black French brothers. We are able through the medium of this society to express in a tangible way our high regard and esteem for the French people for their broad and liberal ideas of universal brotherhood. A fact that we should not be loath to appreciate .If the race is to show the proper incomparison with our races constructive development in the future, we must lend a helping hand to our dear brave French brothers. In the past we have been prone to view things from a local viewpoint in most instances, occasionally from a national viewpoint, but with such unsettled world conditions we must for our own sake view them from a world wide point of view. The society plans to make an actual campaign throughout the country. At any time the contributor may see the books of the society upon application to Dr. F. E. May, the treasurer. Address all communications and contributions to the Colored American Society for the Relief of the French War Orphans, 11 1-2 S. Broad St., Atlanta, Georgia.

Colored American Society For the Relief of the French War Orphans:

You will find inclosed $..... to the society.

My name and address is .....

... .

S. D. L. ROBERTS.

National Organization – 1917

PRESENT MEMORIAL AT WHITE HOUSE.

Resolutions of the National Equal Rights Convention Held in New York City Go to President Wilson.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 6, 1917.—Last Tuesday afternoon, a large delegation of Colored citizens called at the White House and delivered to Secretary Tumulty the following resolutions adopted at the tenth annual meeting of the National Equal Rights League held in New York City, Sept. 18-20 with the request that it be given to the President for his careful perusal. The resolution presented by this delegation, marshalled under the auspices of the District of Columbia branch of the league with Mr. Maurice W. Spencer as spokesman read as follows:

EUAL RIGHTS LEAGUE ADDRESS GOES TO PRES. WILSON.

Woman Leader of Colored Will Also BATTLE "LYNCH LAW."

Washington, Sept. 30, 1917.—Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett of Chicago, a noted leader in America, arrived in Washington today to leave before the government a memorial of the National Equal Rights league proposing among other things that lynching be made a federal crime. She also is seeking to induce the department of justive to undertake an investigation of the wholsale killing of Negroes at East St Louis. The memorial says in part:

"Despite progress we are stil lsurrounded by an adverse sentiment which makes our lives a living hell. We are shut out by trades unions and refused work. We are rejected in business, in professional service and even by the government as clerks solely because of color. The senate of the United States has gone so far as to have a Jim Crow corner in its gallery.

"We do now call upon President Wilson to abolish that essential vialation of democracy, race segregation of government clerks, and to recommend to congress the enactment of laws:

(a) To enforce the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments of the constitution, which forbids peonafe disfranchisement, thereby restoring to millions of Americans their civil and political rights; (b) to make lynching a federal crime; (c) o forbid segregation for race in itnerstate travelfi or travel in federal territory."

(Mrs. Barnett was a member of the League's delegation of which M. W. Spencer was the spokesman.—7d.)

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY NOTES.

The twenty-second annual Atlanta University Conference for the Study of Negro Problems was held in Atlanta on Monday, May 28. Unusual interest attended the discussions owing to the timely consideration of the economic effect of the world war upon Negro business as well as of the local conditions arising from the recent Atlanta fire. The conclusions of the conference are summed up in the following resolutions:

The following resolutions are the expressions of the members, delegates and attendants upon the session of the twenty-second annual conference:

The twenty-second Atlanta University Conference for the Study of Negro Problems has made during the year an investigation of economic cooperation among the Negroes of this state. As a result this conference desires to commend the business progress that has been made by the Negroes of Georgia. On the other hand it deplores the too prevalent haphazard method of conducting business, and the lack of regard for neatness and cleanliness in business places, and recommends that strong efforts be made to improve in these matters in order that Negro business enterprises may command greater respect and a larger patronage. With equal force it recommends that the colored people recognize and encourage such improvement by their business patronage.

This conference also commends interracial co-operation as a means of meeting the grave national crisis produced by the world war. In order to meet the new economic conditions arising from the war there should be better educational facilities for the colored people, so that they may have a better chance to increase their economic efficiency and thereby become more powerful factors in the life of the South and of the Nation.

The problem that faces Georgia and the South today is how to deal with Negro migration and at the same time meet successfully the threatened food crisis and the growing shortage of labor. Two ways of handling the situation have been suggested; namely, more stringent labor laws, and such co-operation between the races as will secure to the Negro better wages and better treatment generally. This conference is confident that only the latter way would be productive of good results, and it hopes that the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the State Council for Defense will take the lead in bringing about this much needed interracial co-operation throughout the state and the South.

The devastating fire which has just visited Atlanta is suggestive of the interdependence of the two races, starting as it did in the neglected Negro section, and extending to the most favored white section. It affords moreover, a timely opportunity for constructive interracial co-operation; and this conference expresses confident expectation that in the rebuilding of the burned section those in authority will regard the welfare of the humblest Negro as well as that of the most favored white citizens. For it is only through the recognition of social solidarity that health, contentment and happiness can be realized for all.

Some question has been raised as to the loyalty of the Negro. His past record and his present response everywhere to the Nation's appeal constitute the most irrefutable reply to this question. This conference expresses a wish that the crisis through which the nation is passing will prove a most effective method of cementing the bonds of mutual sympathy and co-operation between all the varied elements of our common country.

Signed

HORACE BUMSTED, Brookline
MONROE N. WORK, Tuskegee,
WILLIAM L. BROWN, Atlanta.
ROSA B. LOWE, Atlanta.

THE NATIONAL NEGRO CONFERENCE

PRESS ASSOCIATION ADOPTED STRONG RESOLUTIONS.

Richmond Planet

At a meeting of the National Negro Conference held in Washington, D. C., on April 16, relative to the welfare of the Negro in the impending national crisis, the following resolutions were adopted, and later endorsed by the Washington branch of the National Negro Press Association:

Whereas, A State of War exists between the Imperial German Government and the United States of America, and 4/28/17.

Whereas, It is the duty of all citizens to do their part in bringing success to this nation, and lasting peace to the World, and

Whereas, The citizenship of this country is composed of many nationalities, who, because of ancestral allegiances, have deemed it prudent to pledge and reaffirm their loyalty to the government of the United States of America, offering their services to serve in any capacity in the pending struggle, and

Whereas, The traditional loyalty and partiotism of the Negroes of the United States are unquestioned, yet it is our desire to put our position, attitude and inclinations in the present crisis on record,

Regardless of the fact that our Constitutional Rights and Equality before the Law have been denied us;

Regardless of the fact that colored men now, are being denied admission to the fighting forces of the country, solely on account of color, and in spite of the vain efforts to recruit the Military and Naval Forces to the required number, although numerous qualified colored men have sought to be enlisted and have been refused;

Regardless of the fact that our People have been Lynched, Jim-crowed and Segregated in controvention of the plain intent of the Supreme Law of the land, which unlawful acts are seemingly counternanced by those in authority;

Regardless of the fact that they have been refused admittance into the Army and Navy, while other nationalities not in accord with the ideals of this government hold high places in the administration of its affairs—not because the Negro lacks fitness, but solely on account of his color, which barrier to whole-hearted and enthusiastic patriotism should be removed, if a pathetic patriotism is to be stimulated.

Notwithstanding all which, be it known to everybody, everywhere and under all circumstances, that we, the Negroes of the United States of America, subordinate our racial grievances and willingly submit ourselves to our country's call.

Therefore Be It Resolved: First, That we pledge the loyalty and patriotism of our ten million Negroes to the Call and Needs of the Nation. That we pledge our Might, Main and Manhood to the Support and Defense of our Country, anxiously and eagerly ready to serve in any capacity and go wherever sent.

Second, That we believe that every man and woman, physically capable, should be required to render equal service, in like manner, in defense of the country, and, therefore, we endorse Compulsory Universal Military Training and Service, and oppose the policy of liability to military service as being the possible means of creating caste against class and a racial discrimination.

Third, That the President and the Congress of the United States of America, either or both, be, and they are, hereby petitioned to use their powers and influence to so amend, or enact legislation, to vouchsafe and guarantee to every person in the Army, Navy and other service of the United States Government, exactly the same treatment regardless of color, to the end, that he who wears or has worn the uniform of a seaman, soldier, servitor and like service to the government, be not localized nor prescribed in his rights and personal liberties, and to that end a copy of these resolutions be sent to the President of the United States and the members of Congress.

Fourth, That an Executive Committee of five be appointed by the Chairman of this meeting, with power to create auxiliary committees, who shall establish and maintain permanent headquarters in a form of a bureau or otherwise, in the city of Washington, D. C., whose duties shall be to initiate and promulgate a Negro Welfare Propaganda, and devise ways and plans to prosecute plans to finance the same.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) JOSEPH R. POLLARD, Richmond, Va., Executive Secretary.

(Signed) J. FINLEY WILSON, Washington, D. C., Chairman of Conference.

(Signed) REVERDY C. RANSOM.

COLORED LEADERS PLEDGE LOYALTY TO THE COUNTRY

ATLANTIC CITY N J PRESS
AUGUST 31, 1917

Congress in Session Here Also Forms the National Independent Civil and Political Party of America—Race Feeling Condemned

VIGOROUS PLEA FOR WORLD DEMOCRACY

The congress of colored leaders, which have been sitting as the National Independent League, changed its title yesterday and will be known in the future as the National Independent Civil and Political Party of America. In the same resolutions the gathering of prominent men of the race sharply attacked Congress for not extending to the colored race in the United States the same protection that it declares must be given to other races before the war will be settled right, and recorded the sentiment of the gathering as in favor of giving the women a vote.

The Congress is being held in the A. M. E. Zion Church in this city, and the president is Rev. S. D. Corruthers, of Washington, D. C.

Dr. Corruthers in a strong speech in discussion of the resolutions last night appealed to the negroes of the country to have respect for the fathers but to think for themselves.

"We propose to carry this campaign into every hamlet in the country" he said "It is a fight to the finish. I don't care for critics. There are three million negro boys and girls in the schools and they want an open door.

"In Congress there are 50 seats occupied by virtue of the negro vote.

"The President is wishing democracy for all the world, and surely he will not forget the black boys at home. One hundred thousand colored boys are going to the front in the first draft; 1,000,000 colored boys have registered for the draft. If they are good enough to defend Old Glory Old Glory should protect them. To the women of the assemblage Dr. Corruthers appealed not to let themselves be swayed from the course by husbands who are tied up to political organizations, nor to let their communities be dominated by the power of saloons or low dance halls.

Dr. Corruthers was preceeded by I. H. Nutter, colored lawyer of the county bar, who declared the negroes should never give their solid support to any party which after landing its candidates in the offices they sought failed to recognize the black voters who assisted them. "The time has come when black men can look in the face of a candidate and tell whether he is going to be a true representative." The speaker declared that it was a fact that negroes got scant justice in the courts of the South and even in the North courts were prone to hurry in the disposition of negro defendants.

By a coincidence, both Albert Abbott, Republican candidate for Surrogate, and Surrogate Daniel H. V. Bell, spoke from the same platform. The former found that race troubles were chiefly due to failure of the two races to understand each other. He paid tribute to the negroes of America for making the greatest advance of any race in the same length of time. Mr. Bell urged everybody to make a will to save trouble after death and then launched into a declaration for the purity of the ballot.

The reading of the resolutions was preceeded by a brief address by the Rev. G. W. Kinkaid, of Pittsburg, who sounded the call for the initial contribution to the campaign fund of $50,000.

"Whereas the Government of our nation is involved in a world struggle with a foreign nation; therefore, be it resolved that we call upon the twelve million negro citizens of this country to remain absolutely loyal to the Government in every particular, and that nothing be done that in any way could be construed to reflect upon the splendid record that the negroes have made from the War of Independence to the recent struggle with Mexico."

"That we petition the President of the United States, the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy that they extend to the negroes the same governmental protection, the opportunity for advancement in the Army and Navy, that are extended to all other loyal American citizens."

"Resolved that we call upon the Northern negro pastors and churches as well as all of the influential negroes in the North, East and West to extend to their brethren coming from the South all assistance within their power. We recommend further that clearing houses be established in all the great centers and that the new comers be assisted in finding proper churches and religious influences as well as the procurement of positions of employment."

"Resolved that the National Independent League be and hereby is organized into the National Independent Civil and Political Party of America.

"Resolved that a National President be elected with four vice presidents, a secretary and corresponding secretary, a treasurer and an executive committee of forty-eight members, and that the term of office shall be four years."

"Resolved that for the protection and unification of the entire race that a National Legal Bureau be established under the supervision of the Party, whose duty shall be to look after the civil and political rights of the negro, from the Bureau as they are affected by the policy of the National Government."

"Resolved that we do condemn the spirit of murder and the disregard for law that has led to the murder of, and the burning alive of more than 28,000 negroes in the last thirty years."

We commend the Hon. W. J. Dyer and others for the introduction of a bill making lynching a Federal crime and providing for children and other dependents of the victim.

We also commend the Woman's Suffrage movement and urge the women of color throughout the country to organize suffrage leagues wherever enough women can be found to effect such organizations, the same to be a branch of the National Negro Party.

WASHINGTON LETTER

New York Age

Washington Bureau,
THE NEW YORK AGE,
609 F St., N. W.
Miss Jeannette Carter, Manager.

10/18/17

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The National Race Congress held October 4, was a great success and plans are laid for a mammoth meeting in 1918. The following officers were elected: President, the Rev. W. H. Jernagin, Washington; vice-president, Bishop I. N. Ross, of A. M. E. Church; recording secretary, the Rev. Wm. Alexander Baltimore; corresponding and financial secretary, the Rev. A. A. Graham Hampton, Va.; treasurer, the Rev. W. A. Taylor, Washington; national chaplain, the Rev. E. A. P. Cheek, Newark, N. J.; national organizer, Lawyer Robt. L. Vann, Pittsburgh; sergeant at-arms, the Rev. J. J. Nickerson, Hinton, W. Va.; national lecturer, the Rev L. G. Jordan, Philadelphia.

Executive Committee—Revs. H. J. Callis, chairman; the Revs. W. H. Brooks, C. C. Summerville, Virginia; Junius Gray, Maryland; J. T. Reid, West Virginia; Dr. G. B. Howard, Pennsylvania; Dr. T. J. Moppins, Kentucky; the Rev. J. S. T. Holloman, District of Columbia; J. C. Gunnell, New Jersey; the Rev. W. B. Reid, Connecticut.

An address to the country was adopted, the most significant paragraphs being as follows:

"We note the general necessity for a constant course of instruction to our people who have been affected by this new change of habitation and occupation. We recommend that the press, the pulpit and the platform be dedicated, at least in part, to a continued course of instruction to the thousands who have come North to live under entirely new conditions and new laws; that obedience of the law be taught at every opportunity, efficiency and reliability be held before them as essentials; that thrift and economy be urged generally.

"We call attention to the peculiar situation arising out of the draft of our men for the National Army. There is danger of unwise comment upon the method of procedure adopted by the administration relative to the encampment, training and ultimate employment of Negro soldiers. We urge the exercise of caution in our remarks, and the cultivation of loyalty to the country forever, and especially at this time when it is evident that deceptive agencies are at work seeking to arouse us to disloyal expression and general disruption."

"We regret to keep before you the fact that our republic is still cursed with the presence of a spirit of lynch-law and rioting of a virulent type. We recommend a renewed effort toward a successful abolition of this curse, and we urge that the subject be kept forever before our National Congress for legislation calculated to put down forever the lynchers and mob leaders now operating with apparent sanction in the various sections of our republic."

ATLANTIC CITY N.J PRESS
AUGUST 31, 1917

THE COLORED CONGRESS

Whether the Congress of leading colored men of the country now being held in Atlantic City will be prolific in results or not remains to be seen, but there is no doubt concerning the importance of the gathering at this time.

Several of the ablest colored men of the country are in attendance at the gathering and in all probability the views that will be expressed will be moderate and in accordance with sound judgment and good taste.

One proposal made by the colored gathering, namely to pay the dependents of a man lynched $5,000 and to properly provide for the children of such a man, should he have any, should meet with sympathetic consideration, but such a resolution does not go to the root of the matter.

In this age of the ascendancy of the rights of democracy and the principles of justice and fair play the lynching evil should be permanently abolished. It has always been a blot on American civilization and one that should not be tolerated by an enlightened people.

Courts of justice are maintained for the specific purpose of redressing wrongs and meting out justice to those accused of crime and any attempt to usurp the prerogatives of the courts should be firmly and completely defeated. There is no excuse for lynching and there never has been one.

On the other hand the diametrically opposite tendency to shield the guilty and hamper the progress of the law by placing obstacles in the way of the authorities in running down criminals should be as vigorously and effectually suppressed.

All good citizens should be found united, whatever their race or creed to uphold the ends of justice at all times. There is no excuse for any other sort of conduct.

Beta Pi's Become Nationals

CHICAGO DEFENDER NEWS SERVICE

Champaign, Ill., March 30.—Friday evening, March 23, Beta Pi fraternity was received into the national organization of Alpha Phi Alpha. Mr. George T. Hinton, Cleveland, Ohio, general secretary, conducted the ceremonies, assisted by E. M. A. Chandler. The installation was followed by a sumptuous banquet. Saturday evening the club held a formal dance at the chapter house. H. K. Barnett, charter member of Beta Pi, was down from Chicago to take part in the initiation.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF "NEGRO LIFE AND HISTORY" MEETS.

Guardian 9/8/17

The first biennial meeting of the Association for the Study of "Negro Life and History" surpassed all expectations. From all parts of the country white and colored men were present. Among them Dr. James H. Dillard, director of the John F. Slater Fund; Mr. George Foster Peabody, New York banker; Mr. Julius Rosenwald, philanthropist. After reading of Mr. Munroe N. Work's paper on the "Negro and the World War," and Dr. C. G. Woodson's discussion of plans for the saving of the record of the race Mr. George Foster Peabody, emphasized the need of co-operation as an essential in carrying out the plans of the organization. Mr. Rosenwald referred to the time when he first received a copy of the "Journal of Negro History" and was so impressed that he decided to give one hundred dollars a quarter to support it. Mr. James H. Dillard spoke chiefly of the importance of learning more about Africa. He mentioned some of the important books which he has recently read and which so enlightened him that the continent of Africa now seems to him to be an unexplored land of many wonders. Dr. George E. Haynes, Dr. C. V. Rooman and Dr. Thomas J. Jones also spoke.

At the afternoon session the reports of the Director and the Secretary-Treasurer were received with applause. It was shown that the "Journal of Negro History" has rapidly moved forward. The new officers elected are: Dr. R. E. Park of the University of Chicago, president; Dr. C. G. Woodson, director of Research and Editor; Dr. J. E. Moorland, Secretary-Treasurer; and Julius Rosenwald, George Foster Peabody, Jas. H. Dillard, John R. Hawkins, R. E. Jones, L. Hollingsworth Wood, Thomas Jesse Jones, A. L. Jackson, Moorfield Storey and J. G. Phelps Stokes as members of the Executive Council. Dr. G. C. Hall declined re-election.

At the evening session Professor Benjamin G. Brawley of Morehouse College read an excellent paper on "Three Negro Poets," Horton, Mrs. Harper and Whitman. Professor Kelly Miller then delivered an instructive address on the place of "Negro History in our Schools." Dr. C. G. Woodson made some remarks concerning the work of the Association and Dr. J. E. Moorland made an appeal to the people for their support. Many new members were added.

National Organization .417

EQUAL RIGHTS LEAGUE ELECTS ITS OFFICERS

The following officers were chosen at the tenth annual session of the National Equal Rights League, held at Mother Zion Church last week: The Rev. Byron Gunner, New York, president; C. S. Whitted, Conecticut, and Mme. C. J. Walker, New York, vice-presidents at large; J. L. Neill, Washington, D. Co., recording secretary; W. M. Trotter, Massachusetts, corresponding secretary; Mrs. M. Cravath Simpson, Massachusetts, assistant recording secretary; Thomas Walker, Washington, D. C., treasurer; the Rev. I. B. Walters, Massachusetts, chaplain.

Vice-presidents—The Rev. M. F. Sydes, Rhode Island; William D. Brigham, Massachusetts; George W. Murray, Illinois; Dr. W. A. Sinclair, Pennsylvania; J. C. Ford, Michigan; A. F. Watson, Arkansas; W. S. Smith, New Jersey; J. W. Brown, New York; Dr. Harvey Johnson, Maryland; F. W. Felton, West Virginia, and John Mitchell, Jr., Virginia.

In its address to the country the National Equal Rights League condemns the drawing of the color line in the white churches, trades unions and court and the establishing of a "Jim Crow" corner in the gallery of the United States Senate. The killing of innocent Negroes at East St. Louis is condemned and the demand made that the United States form a new army without any law compelling race distinctions.

10TH ANNUAL CONGRESS NATIONAL EQUAL RIGHTS LEAGUE HELD SEPT. 20TH

New York, N. Y., Sept. 28.—The National Equal Rights League held its tenth annual meeting in this city Sept. 20. More than 300 Race men and women gathered at Mother A. M. E. Zion church to formulate petitions and grievances for the purpose of presenting to President Wilson and congress in order to obtain proper redress and decorum. The meeting was replete with vigor and emotion throughout, and the discussions were pointed and interesting. At the conclusion of the general business of the session, Rev. Gamer, of New York, was elected president, and Wm. Monroe Trotter, of Boston, Mass., secretary.

Among the vital discussions and demands made upon President Wilson and congress were as follows: Bitter denunciation of the Jim-Crow gallery in the United States senate; objection to the treatment accorded the Race in government departments at Washington and other cities; protest against the lynch law and unspeakable outrages committed on guilty persons of the Race. The points and petitions were summarized and listed in the manner to especially call President Wilson's undivided attention to the laws of democracy; (a) To enforce the 14th and 15th amendments of the constitution which forbid peonage and disfranchisement, thereby restoring to millions of Americans their civill and political rights; (b) To make lynching a federal crime; (c) To forbid segregation of the Race in interstate travel, or travel in federal territory; (d) And to exclude Race men from the Officers' Training schools, from camps and cantonments with the rest of the troops is a betrayal of the cause of democracy, and is causing fresh contempt and persecution.

The petition is signed by several Race men and women of prominence, and is headed under the title of "An Address to the [redacted]."

EVENING GLOBE

New York City

League to Assert Negro Rights.

Editor Globe:—I want to warn the leaders of the south that we Negroes who have the ballot are on the warpath to force the south to recognize the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments. We have been five to seven years quietly organizing a league composed entirely of Negroes. Now we have filed our incorporation papers in one of the northern states. The name of this league is the Colored Men's Social and Political League of America. Our officers are scattered throughout thirty-seven states and by the time of the next election of congressmen we guarantee that we will have 90 per cent. of the Negroes of voting age in America enrolled.

E. HERBERT SITGRAVES,
New York, Jan. 15. Secretary.